

Zara's Sketching Studio: Mastering Tone and Texture

Learning objective: To develop sketching techniques by exploring line weight, shading, and texture to create depth in drawings.

Join Zara the zebra in her art studio! Zara loves to see patterns everywhere, from the stripes on her coat to the veins on a leaf. Follow the instructions below to experiment with your pencil to create different effects. For each technique, press lightly or firmly to observe how your mark-making changes. Use the space provided in your sketchbook to practice these before completing the challenge questions.

Word bank: Hatching · Cross-hatching · Stippling · Blending · Pressure · Texture · Tone · Gradient

1. Explain why varying the pressure you apply to your pencil is essential when you want to create a sense of three-dimensional form on a flat piece of paper. (3 marks)

2. Compare and contrast 'hatching' and 'stippling'. How does the appearance of the finished sketch change depending on which technique you choose? (3 marks)

3. Justify your answer: If you were sketching a fluffy cloud, which technique would be most effective and why? (2 marks)

4. What might happen if you used the same line weight and pressure for an entire drawing of a complex landscape? Describe the impact on the final image. (2 marks)

5. Look at the patterns on Zara's coat. If you were to sketch her, how would you use 'cross-hatching' to show the curve of her body? (2 marks)

6. Create a 'value scale' below. Draw a rectangle and divide it into five sections. Shade from pure white on the far left to the darkest possible black on the far right using only your pencil. (2 marks)

Draw: Find a natural object, such as a piece of fruit, a stone, or a leaf. Sketch it using at least three of the techniques from the word bank. Pay close attention to where the light source hits the object and use shading to show the shadow on the opposite side.



Extension challenge: Design a 'Texture Library'. Create six small squares. In each, try to recreate the texture of a different surface (e.g., tree bark, silk fabric, water ripples, fur, metal, and glass) using only lines and dots. Label your textures and explain which technique helped you achieve the most realistic effect.